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INFO RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY 3028
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RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY 2800
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY 0020
RUEHLGB/AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY 0842
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY 0196
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY 0190
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C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 001286

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TZ
SUBJECT: TANZANIA'S PRESIDENT REQUESTS U.S. STUDY ABROAD
FOR CLOSEST AIDES

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 01282

Classified By: D. Purnell Delly, Deputy Chief of Mission,
for reason 1.4 (d).

1. (C) SUMMARY. In a recent meeting with Ambassador Retzer, President Kikwete signaled his continuing personal role in managing relations with the U.S. Government. On July 31, President Kikwete called in the Ambassador to raise two issues: (i) his decision to appoint a military attache to Washington D.C. to promote expanded mil-to-mil relations with the U.S. and, (ii) his desire to send key personal staff to the U.S. for training to improve management of the Presidential office (also known as State House). President Kikwete was responsive to the variety of issues which Ambassador Retzer raised, agreeing to encourage the Minister of Health to approve fast and more effective "pin-prick" test kits and to name an Anti-Money Laundering coordinator to lead the process of establishing a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). To maintain the strong positive momentum in U.S.-Tanzanian relations, Post would appreciate Department's assistance in identifying ways to support President Kikwete's desire for State House capacity-building (see Action Request para 4). END SUMMARY.

Kikwete Appoints Military Attache to Washington D.C...

2. (C) President Kikwete informed the Ambassador that the GOT had decided to appoint a military attache to the United States and that his government would formally communicate this to the USG in the near future. President Kikwete explained that the decision reflected the GOT's desire to deepen military cooperation with the U.S. and develop stronger military-to-military ties. Ambassador Retzer told President Kikwete that he was very pleased with the decision and the overall progress toward expanded U.S.-Tanzanian military relations. Ambassador Retzer noted that he was looking forward to visiting the Msata Clinic with the President on August 24 as the clinic represented the first humanitarian project undertaken by U.S. and Tanzanian military forces since the 1990s. President Kikwete replied that he too was looking forward to cutting the ribbon in late August after returning from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Summit in Lesotho and his trip to Angola.

...and Requests Capacity-Building for State House Staff

¶3. (C) President Kikwete also raised a personal request with the Ambassador: his desire to send his personal staff for management training in Washington D.C. He explained, "I would like to send some of my aides and maybe some press officials to the U.S. to gain greater experience on how to manage a President's Office." President Kikwete named two of his assistants, Januari Makamba and David Jairo, whom he believed would benefit from such training. Ambassador Retzer responded positively, assuring President Kikwete that the Embassy would look explore every possibility for facilitating such a training program. While on the topic of fostering government-to-government exchanges, Ambassador Retzer informed President Kikwete about an upcoming Congressional staff delegation, visiting Tanzania on August 8, to explore the potential for establishing a U.S-Tanzanian legislative exchange through the Inter-parliamentary exchange program.

¶4. (C) Action Request: Post would greatly appreciate the Department's assistance in identifying ways to support President Kikwete's desire to build management capacity at the State House. Post intends to explore opportunities under the Distinguished Visitors program but would appreciate learning about different options which may be available to support the President's request. We view the President's request as yet another sign of his pro-U.S. leanings, and therefore consider it important to be responsive.

Ambassador Urges Action on HIV/AIDS Testing,...

¶5. (SBU) Ambassador Retzer introduced President Kikwete to the concept of new HIV/AIDS "pin-prick" test technology and emphasized the USG goal to move HIV/AIDS testing further out into the villages using mobile testing units. The Ambassador explained that the USG had been talking with the Ministry of Health (MOH) for about one year, urging the transition toward "pin-prick" test kits which are most suited to Tanzania's rural population since they do not require refrigeration or skilled medical technicians to administer (reftel A). "The GOT's adoption of 'pin-prick' test kits will enable us to push out into the villages more quickly and ensure that even the most remote villagers know their status and can gain access to life saving drugs," the Ambassador told the President.

¶6. (SBU) President Kikwete expressed his support for the use of mobile testing units to increase HIV/AIDS testing across Tanzania as long as the mobile units still provided adequate counseling in conjunction with the tests. He asked where the approval process stood on "pin-prick" test kits and the Ambassador responded that from what he had learned, the MOH was nearing the completion of its verification tests. President Kikwete assured the Ambassador that he would follow-up on the issue: "The Minister of Health will present his budget in Parliament today. I will call to congratulate him and also to encourage him on the approval of these new test kits."

...Appointment of an AML Coordinator,

¶7. (C) Highlighting the link between the Anti-Money Laundering (AML) legislation and the creation of Tanzania's own Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Ambassador Retzer explained that the funds to begin laying the foundation for an FIU were now available under the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Threshold program. The Ambassador stressed the importance of appointing an AML coordinator to lead the process of setting up the unit and ensuring cooperation among Ministries. President Kikwete said that he did not foresee any major difficulties with passage of the AML bill and agreed that it would be a good idea to get someone in charge of the FIU to begin thinking through the process. "This way, by the time we have the law, we can hit the ground running,"

Kikwete noted.

...And Reconciliation on Zanzibar

18. (SBU) Responding to the Ambassador's inquiry about reconciliation efforts on Zanzibar, President Kikwete admitted that major activities were not yet underway. However, he did say that after the end of the Parliamentary session, he planned to send Minister Maunubali to the isles to begin "creating an atmosphere conducive to reconciliation." The Ambassador said that this would be healthy and he encouraged the President to take steps to bring about mutual understanding.

Peace-Keeping: Where Would Tanzanian Deploy?

19. (C) Ambassador Retzer raised the topic of peacekeeping with President Kikwete, noting that an ACOTA team had recently visited Tanzania and that a strategic conference had been planned for October 2006. President Kikwete assured the Ambassador that the GOT was prepared to give peacekeeping due regard and said, "We need to play our part. Psychologically, we are positively disposed to participation." The Ambassador explained that Tanzania could have a fully trained battalion by mid-2007 but that the USG could equip the battalion only after the GOT decided where the battalion would be deployed. "It would be helpful for the strategy meeting in October if you could provide an indication of a potential location for deployment," the Ambassador added.

10. (C) President Kikwete replied in a joking manner that if he had to choose between a deployment in Darfur or Lebanon, he would surely choose Lebanon. He added, "for sure we will not choose Somalia," agreeing with Ambassador

Retzer's comment that there must be a "peace to keep" before assembling peacekeeping operations. President Kikwete elaborated on the deteriorating situation in Somalia, saying "It is hard to believe what the government is doing; establishing Islamic law, stirring up violence in the whole region including Eritrea and Darfur. They are creating a monster in the region."

Iran Resolution: Ambassador Thanks Kikwete for Support

11. (C) Ambassador Retzer thanked President Kikwete for his government's support of the recent United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution on Iran. President Kikwete stated that the Government of Tanzania's position was simple: A world free of nuclear arsenals. "We support even big powers reducing their nuclear arsenals and we don't support any country now trying to join the league of nuclear powers," Kikwete emphasized. He also added that he had recently made India a bit angry by telling its leaders that he did not believe it was a good thing for the country to acquire additional nuclear weapons. President Kikwete added that the Prime Minister of India would soon be visiting Tanzania.

Comment: State House Managing U.S.-Tanzanian Relations

12. (C) President Kikwete continues to take a highly proactive, personal interest in managing the U.S.-Tanzania bilateral relationship. Surprisingly, during the Ambassador's last two meetings with President Kikwete, there has not been any representation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), or more specifically the Americas division of the MFA. President Kikwete's most recent request to meet with the Ambassador demonstrates the growing trust and confidence which he has placed in forging stronger ties with the USG. Amidst parting formalities, President Kikwete thanked the Ambassador for U.S. support and emphasized: "We need this cooperation." Needless to say, providing training for President Kikwete's closest aides would not only constitute a new chapter in cooperation but enhance mutual understanding as well as open new channels of communication

for the U.S. into Kikwete's inner office. END COMMENT.
RETZER